



File Code: 1950; 2800; 1560

Date: July 22, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR § 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS (36 CFR 220.46(1)). I request your input on the Windstream project described below.

The Forest Service proposes to allow installation of a fiber optic cable next to their existing copper cable along the east side of AR 27 between Mt. Ida and Story. The line would be installed via plow and directional boring. The line would be placed approximately 45 feet east of the centerline of the highway and buried a minimum of 36 inches deep (see enclosed map). This analysis is only for National Forest land. The purpose of this actions is to provide improved communication connection to the area.

Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or an EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Chip Stokes by phone at (870) 867-2101, by email at chip.stokes@usda.gov, or address written comments to the District Ranger at the address listed above. Your comments would be most helpful if received by **August 17, 2020**.

Sincerely,

ICHIRO B. STEWART
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure



